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SENATE

{ REPORT
{ No. 1915

MRS. SUMAKI EGASHIRA

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2635]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 2635) for the relief of Mrs. Sumaki Egashira, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to waive the racial barrier to admission into the United States in behalf of the Japanese wife of a United States citizen.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 28-year-old native and citizen of Japan who was married on May 8, 1947, to Elmer T. Egashira, a United States citizen who is now a medical student at Harvard. Mr. Egashira was employed by the United States Counter Intelligence Corps as an interpreter-translator in Japan from 1945 until 1947.

A letter dated March 2, 1951, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

MARCH 2. 1951.

HON. EMANUEL CELLAR,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 2635) for the relief of Mrs. Sumako Egashira, an alien.

The bill would provide that section 13 (c) of the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended, excluding from the United States persons of races ineligible to citizen-

ship, shall not apply to Mrs. Sumako Egashira, Japanese wife of Elmer T. Egashira, a United States citizen.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that the alien is a native and citizen of Japan, having been born on September 15, 1923, in Saga, Kyushu, Japan. She is presently employed by the wife of a United States soldier at Camp Hakato, Japan.

The files further reveal that Elmer T. Egashira was born in Seattle, Wash., on January 2, 1928, and is now a premedical student at Harvard University. Mr. Egashira stated that in 1941 he departed for a trip to Japan but, due to the outbreak of World War II, he was unable to return to the United States as planned. It appears that he attended school in Japan until October 1945, and that from 1945 until 1947 he was employed by the United States Counter Intelligence Corps as an interpreter-translator. He further alleged that he entered into marriage with the beneficiary of the instant bill on May 8, 1947, and that she is presently endeavoring to obtain a student's visa to enter this country. The record indicates that Mr. Egashira was readmitted to the United States about December 1, 1947, as a United States citizen.

The alien, being of the Japanese race, is racially ineligible to citizenship under section 303 of the Nationality Act of 1940 and thus is inadmissible to the United States for permanent residence under section 13 (c) of the Immigration Act of 1924. The problem of granting relief to persons who are ineligible to citizenship, and therefore excludable from the United States, is a general one and should be resolved, if at all, by general legislation.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Yours, sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
Deputy Attorney General.

The files of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives contain the following letter in connection with the bill:

10 MILK STREET, BOSTON,
February 28, 1951.

CLERK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION,
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I understand that Congressman Herter has discussed with you the bill (H. R. 2635) for the relief of Mrs. Sumako Egashira.

Mrs. Egashira is the wife of Elmer T. Egashira of Seattle, now a member of the sophomore class at Harvard College. Elmer Egashira is a citizen of the United States. His parents are residents of Seattle, and his father is in the restaurant business. I first became acquainted with young Egashira through Francis Cunningham, Jr., who graduated at Harvard in 1948 and was in that year captain of the varsity crew. Cunningham moved to Seattle about 2 years ago, and is now teaching school at Edmonds, Wash. I was in Seattle myself in December of 1949, and met the father at that time, and I have seen a great deal of the son during the last year and a half while he has been a student at Harvard. He is an ardent Catholic, and is one of the most loyal and dependable persons I know.

While in school, and shortly before the war with Japan commenced, Elmer Egashira and his mother went to Japan to visit the mother's parents. With the beginning of the war they were required to remain in Japan, where Elmer Egashira continued in school. He remained in Japan for about a year after he left school, and during that time was employed as an interpreter by the United States Government. On returning to Seattle he spent about a year at the city high school and then entered Harvard.

While in Japan, Elmer Egashira got married, and on his return to this country he was not allowed to bring his wife with him. The purpose of the bill is to enable her to join him in this country, and I hope very much that it will receive favorable action.

Yours very truly,

HENRY L. SHATTUCK.

The Committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 2635) should be enacted.